Atty Docket No.: 01-1004

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the present application. Additions are identified by underlining. Deletions are indicated by ~~strikethrough~~ or [[double brackets]].

1. (Previously Presented) A method for managing communication devices associated with a voice network and a data network using at least one unified communication manager and an instant messaging service, wherein the at least one unified communication manager is connected to both the voice network and the data network, the method performed by the unified communication manager comprising:

receiving a first instant message from a user through a real-time communication channel that is established by the instant messaging service and containing at least a request to set one or more rules for responding to a communication attempt to at least one of the communication devices;

setting the one or more rules based on information in the first instant message; and

transmitting to the user, through the real-time communication channel, a second instant message containing a notification indicating the setting of the one or more rules of the at least one communication device.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein transmitting to the user the second instant message comprises:

determining whether the user is currently connected to the instant messaging service; and

transmitting to the user the second instant message.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein setting the one or more rules comprises

modifying the one or more rules based on the information in the first instant message;

storing the modified one or more rules in a storage in the data network and accessible to the unified communication manager; and

~~receiving signaling~~ transmitting information based on the modified one or more rules [[via]] to a control point in the voice network.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein setting the one or more rules comprises

modifying the one or more rules based on the information in the first instant message;

~~receiving information via~~ storing the modified one or more rules in the data network and accessible by the unified communication manager.

5. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium capable of configuring a computer to perform a method of managing communication devices associated with a voice network and a data network using at least one unified communications manager and an instant messaging service, wherein the at least one unified communication manager is connected to both the voice network and the data network, the method performed by the unified communication manager comprising:

receiving a first instant message from a user through a real-time communication channel that is established by the instant messaging service and containing at least a request to set one or more rules for responding to a communication attempt to at least one of the communication devices;

setting the one or more rules based on information in the first instant message; and

transmitting to the user, through the real-time communication channel, a second instant message containing a notification indicating the setting of the one or more rules.

6. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 5, wherein transmitting to the user the second instant message comprises:

determining whether the user is currently connected to the instant messaging service; and

transmitting to the user the second instant message.

7. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium of claim 5, wherein setting the one or more rules comprises

modifying the one or more rules based on the information in the first instant message;

storing the modified one or more rules in a storage in the data network and accessible to the unified communication manager; and

~~receiving signaling~~ transmitting information based on the modified one or more rules to [[via]] the voice network.

8. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium of claim 5, wherein setting the one or more rules comprises

modifying the one or more rules based on the information in the first instant message; and

~~receiving information via~~ storing the modified one or more rules in a storage in the data network and accessible to the unified communication manager.

9. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for managing communication devices associated with a voice network and a data network using at least one unified communication manager and an instant messaging service, wherein the at least one unified communication manager is connected to both the voice network and the data network, the unified communication manager comprising:

means for receiving a first instant message from a user through a real-time communication channel that is established by the instant messaging service and containing at least a request to set one or more rules for responding to a communication attempt to at least one of the communication devices;

means for setting the one or more rules based on information in the first instant message; and

means for transmitting to the user, through the real-time communication channel, a second instant message containing a notification indicating the setting of the one or more rules.

10. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the means for transmitting to the user the second instant message comprises:

means for determining whether the user is currently connected to the instant messaging service; and

means for transmitting to the user the second instant message.

11. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the means for setting the one or more rules ~~comprises~~ is configured to

modify the one or more rules based on the information in the first instant message;

store the modified one or more rules in a storage in the data network and accessible to the unified communication manager; and

~~means for receiving signaling~~ transmit information based on the modified one or more rules to [[via]] the voice network.

12. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the means for setting the one or more rules ~~comprises~~ is configured to

modify the one or more rules based on the information in the first instant message; and

~~means for receiving information via~~ store the modified one or more rules in a storage in the data network and accessible to the unified communication manager.

13. Cancelled.

14. Cancelled.

15. Cancelled.

16. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

downloading to at least one of the communications devices associated with the user code for interfacing with the at least one unified communications manager.

17. (Previously Presented) A method for managing communication devices associated with a user for terminating connections over a voice network and a data network using at least one unified communication manager and an instant messaging service, wherein the at least one unified communication manager is connected to both the voice network and the data network, said method comprising:

receiving a call from the user over the voice network at a speech processor;

identifying a request to set one or more rules for responding to a communication attempt to at least one of the communication devices associated with the user based on information in the call;

forwarding the request to the at least one unified communication manager;

setting the one or more rules based on the information in the call; and

transmitting to the user, through a real-time communication channel that is established by the instant messaging service, an instant message that contains a notification that indicates the setting of the one or more rules.

18. (Withdrawn) A system for providing unified communication management, the system comprising:

a configuration database comprising user account information; and

a service center in communication with a first network connecting a plurality of user telephones and the configuration database, configured to receive, from a user communication device in accordance with an instant messaging protocol, a message comprising a request to modify the user account information, the service center being further configured to modify the user account information in accordance with the message and to output a representation of the modification to the user communication device in accordance with the instant messaging protocol.

19. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 18, further comprising a second network connecting a plurality of user terminals, the second network in communication with the service center.

20. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 18, wherein the service center comprises:

at least one functional server configured to receive the message, to perform the requested modification to the user account information, and to output to the communication device a status of the request.

21. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 20, wherein the service center further comprises a unified communication manager configured to receive the messages, and to forward the messages to the functional server.

22. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 20, wherein the functional server comprises at least one selected from the list consisting of a security server; a call control server; a conferencing server; a speech processing server; a remote computing server; a back office server; an LDAP Directory Server; a messaging server; a calendar management server; a contact management server; and a profile management server.

23. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 18, wherein the account information comprises user billing information.

24. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 18, wherein the account information comprises a call forwarding pattern.

25. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 20, wherein the message comprises a request to modify the call forwarding pattern.

26. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 18, further comprising the first network.

27. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 18, wherein the first network is a PSTN.

28. (Withdrawn) A method for unified communication management performed by a service center, the service center comprising a unified communications manager and at least one functional server, the method comprising:

receiving, at a unified communications manager, a request for service for a user, the request transmitted in accordance with an instant messaging protocol;

redirecting the request to the functional server;

executing a function at the functional server to perform the service requested; and

transmitting, by the unified communications manager, a message to the user updating the user on the status of the request, the message being transmitted in accordance with an instant messaging protocol.

29. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 26, wherein the one of the functional servers comprises a call control server, and the request is a request for forwarding calls.

30. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 26, wherein the one of the functional servers comprises a conferencing server, and the request is a request for a conference call.

31. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 26, wherein the one of the functional servers comprises an LDAP directory server, and the request is a request for a name lookup.